

This election is made with traverse. As stated in the MPEP §803, if search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions. It is Applicants' position that it would not be unduly burdensome to perform a search on claims 1-28 together. Accordingly, Applicants traverse the restriction requirement.

Applicants note that the Office Action stated that claims 15-18 link Groups I and II, and that upon allowance of the linking claims, the restriction requirement as to the Groups I and II will be withdrawn and any claim depending from or otherwise including all the limitations of the allowable linking claim will be entitled to examination in the instant application.

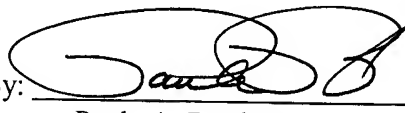
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II. CONCLUSION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required by this paper, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-0815, order number UCAL105CIP2.

Respectfully submitted,
BOZICEVIC, FIELD & FRANCIS LLP

Date: Sept. 23, 2003

By: 
Paula A. Borden
Registration No. 42,344

BOZICEVIC, FIELD & FRANCIS LLP
200 Middlefield Road, Suite 200
Menlo Park, CA 94025
Telephone: (650) 327-3400
Facsimile: (650) 327-3231